



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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June 28, 2013

VFC Providers:

Thank you for your participation in Department's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The Department is sending this notice to your attention to remind you of the responsibilities and actions that are required of VFC providers; and to update you on national vaccine shortages that are currently impacting VCF providers in New Jersey.

Enrollment:

As a provider participating in the VFC Program, you must annually submit an enrollment agreement where you agree to offer these vaccines only to those children that qualify for the program and sign a contract where you agree to comply with the Program's requirements for ordering vaccines, accounting for vaccines and operating in a manner that will prevent fraud and abuse of the Program's vaccines.

NJIS System:

As a provider it is imperative that you submit data into the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) as accurately and completely as possible so that your inventory is accurately reflected in NJIS. Whether your practice enters data manually or through an Electronic Medical Record, problems relating to inventory will be greatly reduced if your practice makes it a priority to ensure the correct and timely entry of data. The Department is working to make data entry into the system as user friendly as possible. This includes our recent enhancement which pre-populates VFC orders (inclusive of lot numbers) into the system so your practice is alleviated of that responsibility.

Vaccine Supply:

New Jersey VFC providers face the same challenges that providers across the nation are facing as it relates to vaccine shortages. The current situation is as follows: Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel (DTaP-IPV/Hib) and Daptacel (DTaP) are expected to remain in short supply throughout the summer of 2013. As a result of the ongoing Pentacel vaccine shortage that began in April 2012, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has experienced increased demand for Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-HepB) vaccine. GSK has taken steps to meet this increased demand, but will not be able to supply this vaccine at the same rate over the next 4-6 months before Pentacel is available without restrictions, which is currently anticipated to occur in September 2013.

A vaccine series begun with a combination vaccine can be completed using single-component vaccines and there is currently an ample supply of single-component vaccines. **Therefore, providers should continue to vaccinate all children on**

schedule. Please ensure that your practice orders an appropriate supply of single-component vaccines to vaccinate all children in accordance with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made guidance documents available to assist providers with vaccination strategies while supplies of combination vaccines remain limited. This document can be accessed through the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/>. Additional information regarding national vaccine shortages is also available through this link.

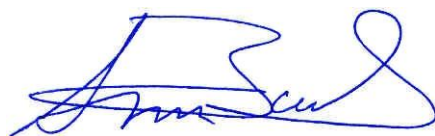
Customer Service:

The Department's NJIIS and VFC programs offer many resources that you can use to work through any problems or questions you may have regarding the NJIIS system and VFC program. These services include:

- NJVFC Customer Service personnel to assist with basic troubleshooting and inventory/ordering issues;
- A NJVFC Vaccine Manager to assist with more complex and/or ongoing issues;
- A new electronic help desk tracking system to ensure questions and problems are directed expeditiously to the responsible staff member;
- NJIIS Trainers who will work directly with your practice to identify interface or data entry errors and share best practices along with providing ongoing feedback and direction;
- NJVFC Public Health Representatives who will visit your practice to assure accountability standards are in place and establish best practices in vaccine management; and
- Providing biweekly interface training webinars to demonstrate the tools available in NJIIS to review and correct data submissions into NJIIS.

The Department's VFC program is available to answer your questions and help with any difficulties you are having. The Department urges you to call us at 609-826-4862, with any concerns or questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Steven Bors, Program Coordinator
New Jersey Department of Health
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program